Swingapalooza

# General & Competition Rules 2026

## General Event Rules

- **Refunds**: All ticket sales are final. There are NO refunds. If you are unable to attend the event, you may transfer your weekend pass to another participant up to 2 days before the event. NO refunds will be issued for scratched contest entries, NO EXCEPTIONS.

- **Liability/Waiver**: All event attendees must read and sign the Waiver at the check-in time

- **Wristbands**: This is your ticket and MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. Routine competitors may have their wrist bands **temporarily** removed by the Registration Coordinator ONLY. If you remove your own wristband, you will be charged full price for the replacement.

- **Code of Conduct**: Everyone attending the event is expected to behave in a polite and professional manner. We should all be able to enjoy the event.

- **Disclaimer**: The event directors and staff reserve the right to remove anyone who is a potential harm, danger or disruption to themselves or anyone else in attendance.

- **Supervision**: Each event participant (competitors and non-competitors) under the age of 18 must have a chaperone for the entire length of the event. The chaperone will be responsible for supervising the minor at all times, on and off site.

- **Event seating**
    - **Reserved seating**: please choose "Reserved seating" when you purchase your weekend pass.
    - **General seating":** these are "theater style" seats. None of these seats are "reserved".
    - Please do not seat in any areas marked "STAFF", "JUDGES" or "VOLUNTEERS"

- **Video recording and photography** - Each instructor may give you permission to tape a short summary of the workshop at the end.

- **Workshops**: Be on time. Doors will close 5 minutes after the beginning of each workshop. LATE ENTRY IS NOT ALLOWED.

- **OUTSIDE BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE BALLROOM**. This is a hotel regulation.

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## General Competition Information

- **Competitors are encouraged to dance in the appropriate skill level division, according to their current WSDC points**. Petitions are allowed up or down, one level only. All competitors who would like to petition should fill out the petition form posted on the World Swing Council website Decisions will be announced individually. Swingapalooza Event Directors reserve the right to move entries to more appropriate divisions or to reject entries inappropriate for any of our divisions.
- Competitors are encouraged to contact the Chief Judge for guidance.
- ***All WSDC Jack & Jill Divisions will follow WSDC rules.***

## Definitions

- "Points" – Points listed in the World Swing Dance Council Competitors Registry.
- "WSDC" – The World Swing Dance Council. (World Swing Dance Council - WSDC)

## General Competition Requirements

**General Eligibility**
Each competition is open to all competitors in good standing who

1. hold a full weekend pass;
2. register by the official entry deadline(s) (see the event schedule);
3. pay the required entry fee(s) and complete any required entry forms, including signed waivers; and
4. meet all other specific entry requirements as outlined in these rules.

**Appropriate Behavior and Dress Code**

It is the desire of the Organizer to encourage expressive and exciting dance performances without sacrificing quality of dancing and good taste.
Dress to impress when you compete!
Comedy routines and props are not allowed.
Competitors should check with the Chief Judge in advance if they have questions regarding the acceptability of their routine or competition attire.

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## DIVISION RULES

### Pro-Am Strictly Swing Division: *(Non-Routine)*

#### *General*

1. Amateurs may enter only one skill level (Novice or Intermediate) with one Pro.
    a. Novice: You must qualify as a "novice" level dancer according to WSDC points; however, amateurs with no WSDC points are also eligible to dance as a "Novice".
    b. Intermediate: You must qualify as an "intermediate" level dancer according to WSDC points.
2. Advanced level dancers or higher may compete as a "Pro" in this division.
3. Each professional shall have no more than 5 Amateurs in each Division Level. (5 Novice and 5 Intermediate)

#### *Specific*

1. Couples will dance for approximately 90 seconds to music chosen by the DJ.
2. Expected swing content is at least 90% recognizable swing. It is Head Judge's discretion to determine whether the swing content requirement has been met.
3. Costumes are not allowed; however, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
4. This division will be danced in heats.
5. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-a-ways, and recoveries.
6. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
7. Dancers must maintain their own physical contact with the floor during partner weight support moves.

### Strictly Swing Divisions:

Swing dancing that encourages lead and follow partner dancing at its best. Although swing includes amalgamations and patterns that are familiar to many dancers, the essence of lead and follow must be maintained in and out of these patterns. Strictly Swing division is not meant for long and extended pre-choreographed phrases. Choreography "on the fly" is the objective.

#### *Format*

Competitors enter as couples and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary and semi-final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Finals may either be danced in a heated format or a spotlight format.

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### *General*

1. Each competitor may enter **only one skill level in a specific role**: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Professional (AllStar & Champ). Competitors must dance at the highest skill level that *either* partner qualifies for.
2. All competitors over the age of 35 may dance in the Sophisticated Strictly Swing division.
3. All competitors over the age of 50 may dance in the Masters Strictly Swing division.

1. Strictly Swing Generational:
    a. There must be a difference of at least 20 years between partners
    b. Dancers from Newcomer to AllStar level may enter this division. No 2 AllStar dancers are allowed to dance together.

### *Specific*

1. Costumes are not allowed; however, matching or complementary outfits suitable for social dancing are acceptable
2. Pre-choreographed routines are not allowed.
3. Couples must maintain physical contact except for spins, turns, short break-aways, and recoveries.

## Jack and Jill Divisions:

Jack & Jill competitions are designed to highlight social dance skills in spontaneous swing dancing and the ability to dance well with a variety of partners. A bit of "luck of the draw" comes into play as well.

### *Format*

Competitors enter as individuals, are randomly assigned partners, and dance to music selected in advance by the Competition DJ. Depending on the number of entries, preliminary and semi-final rounds may be held and will be danced in a heated format. Finals may either be danced in a heated format or a spotlight format.

WSDC Jack & Jill divisions (Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, AllStar, Sophisticated, Masters) will follow WSDC rules.
Pro-Am Jack & Jill divisions are NOT WSDC divisions.

### *General*

1. Each competitor may enter **only one skill level in each role**: Newcomer, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, AllStar.
2. All competitors over the age of 35 may dance in the Sophisticated JJ division.
3. All competitors over the age of 50 may dance in the Masters JJ division.
4. Pro-Am Jack & Jill division;
    a. Any dancer up to Intermediate level can dance as an Am in this division
    b. Advance level dancers or higher may compete as a Pro in this division.

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## Mixed Pro-Am Routine Division:

### *Format*

Competitors enter as couples (1 professional and 1 amateur) and dance to their own music in a spotlight format.

### *General*

1. Each amateur may enter only one skill level (Novice or Open).
2. Costumes are required.

### *Specific*

1. "In the air" moves, partner weight support moves, such as, lifts, aerials, or acrobatics are allowed, but not required and that does not count toward 80% recognizable swing content requirement.
2. "On the ground" support moves (such as drops, slides, and spreads) are allowed, but not required.
3. Side-by-side patterns, and breaks in contact are allowed.
4. Routines must be a minimum of two (2) minutes and a maximum of three (3) minutes in length.
5. Choreographed entrances-to and exits-from the dance floor are permitted, but not required, in choreographed routines. Timing and judging will begin from the first movement of the performance, with or without music or sound. If a choreographed entrance and/or exit are used, it will be included in the judging and timing requirements.
6. A restart will be allowed only if the music system falters or an unforeseen catastrophe occurs. Events such as a broken dress strap, untied shoelace, unhappy with the dancing, etc.....does not warrant a restart.

### *Routine Music*

1. The **competitor** is responsible for submitting their music to the Head DJ in a timely manner and checking to ensure it plays properly on the sound system.
2. It is highly recommended to have an extra copy of your music in the ballroom in case there is a problem with your original file in the DJ booth.